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Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Summary

The present document contains information provided by the following four Divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat: the Statistics Division; the Division for the Advancement of Women; the Division for Public Administration and Development Management; and the Division for Sustainable Development. Each Division provides an overview of their activities in relation to indigenous peoples. The secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which is part of the Division for Social Policy and Development, will provide its report to the Forum in a separate document.

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I. United Nations Statistics Division

1. The United Nations Statistics Division within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat will continue playing its role in the collection and dissemination of data relevant to the analysis differentials of well-being between indigenous peoples and the rest of the population in countries or areas that will be collecting data on ethnicity. The United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994, help countries in producing data on indigenous and ethnic groups in a country by providing guidelines on: relevance, impartiality and equal access; professional standards and ethics; accountability and transparency; prevention of misuse; cost-effectiveness; confidentiality; national coordination; and international standards. The Fundamental Principles, therefore, underscore good practices to follow in collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating data on indigenous populations.

2. The current work of the Statistics Division relates mostly to the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, in which the Division is encouraging countries to conduct censuses at least once between 2005 and 2014. The Division is cognizant that at its sixth session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in paragraph 123 of the report on the session,[1] called on the Statistics Division to support efforts to collect and disseminate data on indigenous populations. Many countries are expected to collect information pertaining to ethnicity and indigenous peoples. It is our belief that with the proactive promotion of the census by the Statistics Division, many more countries will carry out censuses during this period compared with the number that did so during the 2000 round.

3. A census is a major source of socio-economic and demographic information relevant to the analysis of the well-being of indigenous peoples vis-à-vis the rest of the population in a country. The information is usually collected for the whole country, implying that there are results for small area domains. This, in turn, facilitates the analysis and dissemination of data at small administrative levels useful for informed decision-making and planning. This is because in most countries the census is a complete enumeration. The census is an essential vehicle for collecting varied information related to indigenous populations covering different topics. This means that at the analysis stage, many different variables can be cross-tabulated for a given reference period.

4. The following are some of the relevant topics which may be collected by countries in a census: classification of the population in the country by ethnicity, religion and language, which are attributes that can assist, in some countries, in identifying indigenous peoples; age, sex, geographical and internal migration characteristics; international migration characteristics; household and family characteristics; demographic and social characteristics; fertility and mortality; educational characteristics; economic characteristics; disability characteristics; and agriculture, among others. An expanded list of population and housing census topics appears in paragraph 2.16 of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*[2] (also available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/docs/P&R_%20Rev2.pdf).

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43).

[2] Statistical Papers, No. 67/Rev.2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8).

5. In 2007, the Statistics Division published the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2* which is used as a reference by national statistical/census offices for guidance on the collection, tabulation and dissemination of census data. The publication is used worldwide. The revision includes a new section dedicated exclusively to indigenous peoples and is available on the Statistic Division's website (see para. 4 above).

6. The Statistics Division has a proactive programme on the 2010 world population and housing censuses. Among other things, the Division organizes training workshops in different regions on various census subjects. In 2007, the Division organized five workshops on cartography and census management. In 2008, the Division is planning to organize about seven workshops on population and housing censuses covering data capture, editing, processing and analysis. The workshops are designed to be flexible so as to include modules on data collection on special topics, such as ethnicity. An interregional adviser on censuses will be available to provide technical assistance to countries at their request. This service will be complemented by assistance from regular staff members in the Statistics Division.

7. Another key activity in the area of data collection and dissemination that is relevant to indigenous peoples is the regular collection and dissemination of data on ethnicity, language and religion. After a country has conducted a population and housing census, the Statistics Division sends questionnaires to countries or areas requesting basic information, among others, on national and/or ethnic groups, language and religion disaggregated by sex. Such data are processed, published and disseminated worldwide and are made available on the Division's web page.[3]

II. Division for the Advancement of Women

8. The following information is from the Division for the Advancement of Women regarding the sixth session and preparation for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

9. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women continues to review and address the situation of indigenous women in reporting States parties. During its thirty-seventh (15 January to 2 February 2007), thirty-eighth (14 May to 1 June 2007) and thirty-ninth (23 July to 10 August 2007) sessions, the Committee raised the issue of indigenous women in a constructive dialogue and in the concluding comments of those States parties that had indigenous peoples among their population, namely, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Suriname (see the Committee's annual report to the General Assembly (A/62/38)).

[3] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/default.htm. The website is scheduled to be updated in the second quarter of 2008.

Commission on the Status of Women

10. The Commission on the Status of Women continues to address the situation of indigenous women primarily through its work on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (see A/55/341). At the Commission's fifty-first session, from 26 February to 9 March 2007, the situation of indigenous girls was addressed in a high-level round table on the priority theme: "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child". The situation of indigenous women was addressed in an interactive expert panel on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and follow-up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study at the national and international levels. Summaries of those events can be found on the Division's website.[4]

11. Merike Kokajev, a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, participated in the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She spoke on behalf of the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum when she addressed the fifty-first session of the Commission in February 2007.

12. The Division for the Advancement of Women continues to participate in and contribute to the work of the Task Force on Indigenous Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

III. Division for Public Administration and Development Management

13. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Socio-economic Governance and Management Branch, is in contact with indigenous mayors and institutions in Ecuador that managed to develop a concrete participatory platform to handle the challenges of urban-rural relations, the municipal management aspects of local development and environmental issues faced by indigenous people. The experience resulting from a few indigenous local administrations in Ecuador indeed demonstrates their stewardship in balancing local development goals in a participatory manner, with lessons that could be applicable to other local indigenous realities in other regions of the world. In addition, the Socio-economic Governance and Management Branch is also in the process of developing participatory planning strategies, tools and techniques of planning and budgeting that can contribute to building socio-economic governance capacities relevant to local governments administered by and/or for the indigenous community.

[4] See http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm.

IV. Division for Sustainable Development

Indigenous peoples and the Major Groups Programme

14. Broad public participation in implementation is an essential prerequisite of sustainable development. Indigenous peoples and their communities constitute one of the nine major group sectors recognized by Agenda 21[5] as essential partners in the advancement of sustainable development. Only through their full participation will sustainable development practices occur on their lands and be sustained in their cultural, social, economic and physical well-being.

15. Since the creation of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1992, indigenous peoples and the other major group sectors have been participating as partners in the formulation of sustainable development policies and in their implementation. The meetings of the Commission have provided innovative spaces for the participation of non-governmental actors, with the overall purpose of informing the Commission's decision-making processes.

16. Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, a number of multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development were launched that are working with and/or for indigenous communities at the local, regional and global levels to address issues related to water, agricultural heritage, land and biotrade development.

17. Representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations participated actively in the fifteenth session of the Commission and its intergovernmental preparatory meeting in 2007. The Chair's summary of the fifteenth session of the Commission[6] calls upon governments to take action to encourage closer cooperation and dialogue among indigenous people and local communities and other key stakeholders in order to promote effective voluntary business and consumer actions to enhance sustainable consumption and production, as well as full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work (para. 23 (j)) and to promote the participation and awareness of all major groups in addressing climate change since its impacts affect all sectors of society (para. 33 (f)). For more information on major groups' participation in the fifteenth session of the Commission, visit the Commission's website.[7]

18. At its sixteenth session, to be held in New York from 5 to 16 May 2008, the Commission on Sustainable Development will review progress in implementing sustainable development commitments outlined in Agenda 21,[5] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[8] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for

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[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[6] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 9* (E/2007/29, chap. I, annex).

[7] See http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/mg/mg_ipm_msd.htm.

[8] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[9] in relation to agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification as well as Africa. The Commission will also review decisions on water and sanitation made at its thirteenth session. Indigenous peoples' organizations have been invited to contribute to the sixteenth session of the Commission by submitting written inputs to the Secretary-General's reports; providing examples of case studies to be included in the Commission's matrix and the sustainable development case studies database; and preparing an official discussion paper through the coordination of a steering group of indigenous organizations led by Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) and the Indigenous Environmental Network to outline indigenous peoples' views related to the thematic cluster. The Indigenous Peoples' Discussion Paper is available on the Commission's website in all official languages of the United Nations.[10]

19. Indigenous peoples' organizations have also been invited to contribute to and participate in the activities of the sixteenth session of the Commission, including:

(a) Two dedicated major groups' multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions;

(b) One high-level dialogue session with major groups and Ministers;

(c) Thematic panel discussions;

(d) Regional discussions;

(e) Small Island Developing States Day;

(f) Final statements during the closing plenary;

(g) Partnerships Fair;

(h) Learning Center;

(i) Side events.

In addition, indigenous peoples' organizations were invited to participate in the five regional implementation meetings held in preparation for the review session of the sixteenth session of the Commission.

20. In addition to the process leading to the sixteenth session of the Commission, the Division for Sustainable Development has invited indigenous peoples' organizations to contribute to the Marrakech Process through participation in international expert meetings, such as the third International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, held from 26 to 29 June 2007 in Stockholm. Representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations also participated in the high-level event on the theme "The future in our hands: addressing the leadership challenge of climate change", held on 24 September 2007.[11]

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[9] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.III.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[10] See http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_sdissues_major_groups.htm.

[11] See http://www.un.org/webcast/climatechange/highlevel/.

21. The Division for Sustainable Development makes limited funding available to indigenous people and other major group participants to enable their participation in meetings of the Commission. Three representatives nominated by the indigenous people's sector received funds to participate in the fifteenth session of the Commission in 2007, and three more will receive funds to participate in activities related to the sixteenth session in 2007-2008. The Division for Sustainable Development maintains a web page dedicated to the indigenous peoples' sector.[12]

Commission on Sustainable Development partnerships working with and/or for indigenous communities

22. The following is a summary of some Commission on Sustainable Development registered partnerships that have specifically indicated a relationship with or activities involving indigenous communities. For each partnership a brief summary of the objectives is provided, along with the specific references to work with indigenous communities, which have been updated to reflect recent activity within the past year. Websites and other relevant links are also provided for further reference.

Recovery of the Circuit of Four Lakes

23. Surging from a pressing environmental need, this partnership is being implemented by the indigenous non-governmental organization Yachay Wasi (based in New York City, the United States of America, and in Cuzco, Peru) to assess and stop the growing chemical contamination of four Andean mountain lakes and recover the biological diversity of the area. The contamination of those lakes has been a growing problem over the past few years, more so for the communities that depend on their waters:

(a) There are 36 indigenous communities living near the lakes, with an estimated population of 25,518 inhabitants in 2002;

(b) The project is being implemented in a rural area of the Peruvian Andes, mainly in lakes Acopia and Pomacanchi, by Yachay Wasi, a small indigenous NGO based locally and also in the United States of America. The village of Acopia in Peru is the birthplace of Luis Delgado Hurtado, co-founder and president of Yachay Wasi, who now resides in Cuzco, Peru. He speaks Quechua and is of Inca heritage. He has been able, after consultations, to obtain prior and informed consent from project beneficiaries who are also indigenous and include local authorities;

(c) Yachay Wasi has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and the initiative has been registered with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development. This has enabled it to increase its contacts and support at the international level;

(d) This non-governmental organization has benefited from the valuable support of the Rotary International in the United States of America and Australia, which enabled the launch of the first phase of the project in September 2007. The project will be accomplished mostly by local indigenous workers. As part of the project, Acopia will be the first village in which a new septic tank and laundry

[12] See http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/about_mgroups/amg_indigenous_main.htm.

facilities will eventually be built. This scenario may be duplicated in other areas of the world in which indigenous peoples reside.[13]

Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America

24. This partnership aims to promote the use of renewable energy sources and clean technologies in Central America in a sustainable manner and to make energy services more accessible to the poor, particularly to those in rural areas. Increased utilization of renewable energy in the national and local energy mix, the introduction of new energy and environmental technologies, the utilization of clean development mechanism potential, better energy sector management and increased access to energy services are the expected results of the partnership. The partnership has benefited from the generous support of Finland and Austria in cooperation with the Central American Commission of Environment and Development and the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System. Since its launch in 2002, 31 European and 33 Central American companies and institutions have joined the partnership, which supports 119 projects. Several projects have benefited from the active participation of indigenous communities, in particular in Guatemala and Panama, which has added to the sustainability and the potential of replication of the project, including:

(a) Photovoltaic electrification projects, which have been developed in two Kuna Yala Indian communities in Panama, Ogobsucun and Ustupu, with benefits to approximately 3,585 inhabitants;

(b) Six Maya Indian villages in Guatemala have also received support to install photovoltaic electrification.[14]

Equator Initiative

25. The Equator Initiative is a partnership that brings together the United Nations, civil society, business, Governments and indigenous communities designed to support local livelihoods and reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by fostering, supporting and strengthening community partnerships. It was designed by recognizing that the world's greatest concentration of biological wealth is found in tropical developing countries that are beset by acute poverty. In those regions, the loss of biodiversity is accelerating as poverty is increasing. There are many innovative and effective ways through which indigenous and other local communities are rising to those challenges. However, these innovations remain largely unknown. Whether for food, medicine, shelter or income-generation, the groups are using their biological resources in a sustainable way to improve their livelihoods.

26. Winners of the Equator Prize, an international award that recognizes outstanding local efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, have included several indigenous community projects in their prize winners in 2004 and 2006, mainly in Guatemala, Mexico and Colombia.

[13] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1305.html and http://www.yachaywasi-ngo.org/lakesproject.htm.

[14] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/182.html and http://www.sgsica.org/energia.

27. Equator Ventures, aimed at offering enterprise development support to local communities, has also provided loan assistance since 2005 to projects, with the participation of indigenous communities in Guatemala, Chile and Bolivia.[15]

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

28. The overall goal of the project is to identify and safeguard globally important agricultural heritage systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems through catalysing and establishing a long-term programme to support such systems and enhance global, national and local benefits derived through their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and enhanced viability.

29. The attention to local knowledge systems is opportune in view of the increasing recognition that is being paid to indigenous peoples and to the effective involvement of local and indigenous communities in decision-making processes, in accordance with article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity[16] and other human rights.

30. Natural and cultural heritage have separately been the subject of much attention over the recent decades through Man and Biosphere Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its designation of, and support to, biosphere reserves and the designation of outstanding sites and protected areas under the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.[17] However, this initiative aims to increase recognition of the combined cultural and natural agricultural heritage that is maintained in outstanding agricultural systems, including the landscape, in situ conservation of species, knowledge and management systems and the often unique and renowned produce of such systems.[18]

Land Alliances for National Development

31. Land Alliances for National Development, or LAND Partnerships, constitute a global initiative to alleviate rural poverty by strengthening country level collaboration among state, civil society, bilateral and international stakeholders. This collaboration is needed to: (a) achieve participatory dialogue; (b) improve policy formulation; (c) establish joint action to secure resource tenure for households with user rights; and (d) increase access to land by the landless and near-landless.

32. The International Land Coalition (Italy) serves as the coordination mechanism of the partnership and works to:

(a) Strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations to be effective partners inside a LAND Partnership;

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[15] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/40.html and http://www.equatorinitiative.org.

[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1037, No. 15511.

[18] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1153.html and http://www.fao.org/ag/agl/agll/giahs.

(b) Support the logistic requirements for community participation in dialogue and in land policy formulation;

(c) Ensure that LAND Partnerships benefit from and take into consideration the lessons learned and the implications of changes for traditional organizations, pastoralists/herders, women and special populations, including indigenous peoples;

(d) Support government land institutions in partnership with target communities;

(e) Increase secure access to land by the landless and near-landless, including women, indigenous peoples and marginalized groups.

33. The membership of the Coalition has grown in number to include a much wider set of civil society partners, including organizations of farmers, women, landless peoples, indigenous peoples, NGOs and other community-based organizations, in over 35 countries.

34. One example of programme activity that directly involves an indigenous community is Promoting Natural Resources Management by Indigenous Communities in the Ngovayang Forest (Cameroon).[19]

Great Apes Survival Project

35. The main objective of this partnership is to lift the threat of imminent or medium-term extinction faced by the four main kinds of great apes (bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans). It identifies and supports income-generating initiatives for the benefit of communities living in and around great ape habitats and protected areas, with due consideration for indigenous communities and to ensure, where it becomes imperative to resettle indigenous people in conformity with United Nations guidelines, that compensation is paid with international support.[20]

Andean Biotrade programme of Andean Community, Andean Development Corporation and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

36. The general objectives of the Andean Biotrade programme are:

(a) To promote trade and investment in biological resources in the Andean region with the aim of supporting the objectives of the Andean biodiversity strategy and contribute to sustainable development in the region;

(b) To support the development of biotrade in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) through regional actions that complement the national Biotrade programmes.

37. This partnership contributes to poverty alleviation, fosters local and national development, and ensures mechanisms of benefit sharing by generating tangible

[19] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/36.html and http://www.landcoalition.org.

[20] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/43.html and http://www.unep.org/grasp/.

economic, social and environmental benefits to people living in biodiversity-rich areas. It also strengthens the role of local actors such as NGOs, local and indigenous communities, academia, and the private sector. [21]

New Ventures Biodiversity Investor Forum for the Andean and Amazonian region

38. The Andean Development Corporation, the World Resources Institute and the Biotrade initiative of UNCTAD have entered into a partnership to support existing and start-up small- and medium-sized biobusinesses from the Andean and Amazonian regions, to access credit and venture capital to overcome their difficulties in obtaining long-term finance. It aims to increase priority for biobusiness development in agendas of government, the private sector, local and indigenous communities, donors and other relevant stakeholders.[22]

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[21] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/251.html, http://www.biotrade.org, http://www.caf.com and http://www.comunidadandina.org.

[22] For further information see: http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/83.html, http://www.biotrade.org, http://www.new-ventures.org and http://www.caf.com.